Then they are introduced by the husband or father to us covered with the richest of cloths & ornaments they can get for them. The ornaments are placed upon the neck wrists ankles & toes - in the ears & nose. When they appear they make their salam (or bow) present a lime & retire -- The poorer people of higher cast wear one piece of cloth four or five yds. long which is first wound round the waist then brought up over the breast & passing over one shoulder is brought round under the opposite shoulder & tucked in before or else they wind it round them close under the arms. These dresses are regulated by casts - But ~~the~~ by far the largest proportion of the females that are seen in the fields & streets & this class is very numerous, are absolutely forbidden to wear a cloth above the waist or below the knee, or any covering whatever; & should they be seen with any by higher cast people they would be striped of all their covering & shamefully abused.

I could not, my brother, if I would, describe to you the wretched state of the people here especially the female part of them. They are complete slaves to their husbands who often treat them with a severity & cruelty which a N. Engd. farmer would be ashamed to exercise towards the cattle of his fields. With what zeal should we pray & labour to give them the only remedy, the Gospel of Christ, which alone can raise them from their most abject state, to enjoy the blessings of chris. civilization. For four months past we have been on missionary ground. We live in the house formerly occupied by the Rev. Mr. Palm & his excellent wife, of whom Doctor Buchanan speaks in his researches -- Our house is by no means the most comfortable; as the rain comes down from our roof in stormy weather, but we have been able to shift in such a manner as yet as to suffer no material injury from the rain - We are very happy in our little family - in our missionary labours, & in schools - We have about 30 fine boys to instruct, & we want very much a small fund that we may be able to take a number of poor boys, (to be found here), from their heathen parents & bring them up wholly under our eye. The conversations of the parents when the children go home to eat & sleep, counteracts our instructions - So far as we can ascertain, one Sp. dollar per month will support a boy from five to ten or twelve years old, with food & cloth, provided we can have the specie sent to this Island, as the exchange of specie here is better than on the coast -- Are there not a few well disposed persons around, who will feel able to support one or more boys which boys might be named ~~by~~ the persons supporting them if they request it. It is of the first importance to support boys in this way if we would be successful in bringing them off from their idolatry. Br. Richards & myself are called to exercise our medical skill much! We have some days from twenty to forty of the sick, the lame the blind, flocking to our door for medical aid. Some on beds - some in baskets - some creeping as they can - some brought in the arms of friends. There are three with broken limbs lying in our school room, & others with sores so that they are unable to walk - The miserable ~~con~~ condition of the sick has induced us to apply to our friends for aid, & they have subscribed enough to put up a thatched house & purchase a few conveniences for a hospital, which we are now engaged in preparing. We trust that God will make this a powerful means of winning the affections of the people to us. It brings multitudes of people to us who would not come were it not for this, & we have an opportunity to converse with them about their souls. We hold morning prayers in a large room where these people all assemble, which gives us a little audience. We have the portion of S.S. read in Tamul & the prayer interpreted. & we usually make remarks on the chapter read - We get at present a very small monthly subscription, but we earnestly hope & expect some assistance from home. We shall soon write to the Prud. Com. about it - At Batticotta Br. R. is doi
much for the sick

I am obliged to close this rough draft for I cannot coppy it my time has been badly taken up with company for a few days. & I fear this will not reach Bombay before the ship – Capt Haskel of Beverly. We are all well Mrs Poors little daughter grows finely – now almost 3 months old It is Poor from head to foot. Our schools afford us much pleasure. We have some more than thirty boys – We preach regularly every sabbath. & often on week days through our interpreters. We make it a part of our work to visit one or two villages a week. Soon we expect a large school. As the crops are almost gathered. Farewell my brother. Pray for us that we may have more grace. & be more faithful. We long to see more miss[ies] out soon. & a press. We want Tracts bibles testaments & religious school books. Grammars. Dictionary arithmaticks &c &c much My love to your parents & all your family. & to all enquiring friends. Write me soon. Our dear miss'y brethn & sisters are all very well. Sister Meigs little daughter four months old grows finely We frequently see them — Br Poor wishes me to say that he hopes you have received his letter which he wrote on board the Dryad. He & his wife send much love to you & they think their little daughter would do so if she could speak english. — I am your brother in the Lord

Edward Warren

Mr J B. Lawrence – Write me soon We have recd very few letters from our friends in A. yet & none from Salem — Why this

Mr John B. Lawrence
Salem
Massachusetts
U.S.A.

Copy
a Letter to J B L.
Salem
Mar 16
1817